

Walnut Dollison Historic District
836 E. Elm Street
Gustavus A. Watson House
Springfield
Creene County
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1252S

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225

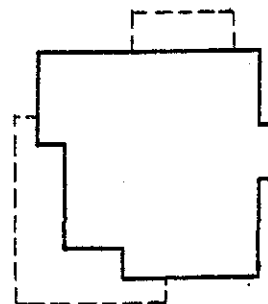
Historic American Buildings Survey Architectural Data

836 EAST ELM STREET

Gustavus A. Watson House

Location: Springfield, Greene County, Missouri
Cadastral grid : SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S24, T29N, R22W
USGS quadrangle: Springfield Missouri 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ '
UTM coordinates: 15.474965.4117540
Lot dimensions : 80'x 128' .24 acres
Lot description: Beginning at the SW corner of Dollison and Elm Streets, S 128', W 80', N 128' to beginning

Present Owner: Lucille J. Straus
Present Usage: single family residence
Present Condition: good



Overall Dimensions: 42'x 43'; 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ stories
Orientation : north
Architectural Plan type : irregular plan
Description : Foundation: coursed ashlar stone perimeter walls
Structure : wood frame
Ext. walls: beveled siding with plain corner boards; decoratively coursed half-round and imbricated shingles in gables
Roof: asphalt shingled, moderately pitched pyramid roof (with corbeled brick chimney in peak); corner gables in northwest and southeast corners
Dormers: large triangular dormer centered on south facade
Windows: 1/1 double-hung with moulded drip caps and plain casings and slip sills
Porches: 1-story open veranda which wraps around north and east facades; rear screened porch with open second story balcony over
Details: boxed and moulded cornices with plain friezes on main and porch roofs; decorative shinglework in the main gables; Tuscan porch columns with turned balustrades; corbeled brick chimneys; decoratively scrollsawn gable springers; flared shingle wall panels

Construction Date : 1896-97 (prob.)

Architecture Style: Late Victorian

Statement of

Significance:

Probably built by Gustavus Watson, a prominent early Springfield attorney who moved to the city in 1896, on the site of an earlier house, this large frame structure is one of the earlier town houses erected by the merchant class along Elm, Cherry and Walnut Streets around the turn of the century. Its picturesque massing and variety and extent of applied ornamentation distinguish it as one of the better Late Victorian residences in the study area. Watson moved from this building in 1922 around the corner to a new bungalow he had just completed, and this house was then rented for a number of years. It remains in good condition today, having undergone relatively minor alterations since its construction.

B36 East Elm Street

References:

1910 and 1933 Sanborn Insurance Maps
Springfield City Directories, 1894-1930
Tax Records, Greene County Assessor's Office, Springfield Missouri
"Historic Inventory, Missouri SHPO, prepared by David Quick, SMSU

Compiler:

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